Support to Struggle for Democracy in Burma

2675. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Burmese pro-democracy leaders and students had appealed for support from India in their struggle for restoration of democracy in Burma; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's sympathy and moral support for the democratic movement in Myanmar is well known. However, consistent with our well established policy we have refrained from any actions which may be construed as interference in Myanmar's internal affairs.

Refusal by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to Meet Indian Refugees from Afghanistan

2676. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the refusal by the United Nations Commissioner for refugees to meet the Indian refugees from Afghanistan for nearly six months, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government are aware that Afghan Nationals who have come to India in recent months have approached UNHCR seeking refugee status and that UNHCR is processing their requests. Government are of the view that all possible assistance is rendered to mitigate the hardships faced by these displaced Afghan nationals. This has been conveyed to UNHCR and to the Afghan Govt.

Attacks by Srilankan Navy on Indian Fishermen

2677. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news item which appeared in the Tamil Daily Dinamani, dated 2nd February, 1992 regarding the attack on Indian Fishermen by Srilankan Navy;

(b) whether Indian Navy and Coastal Guards are aware of this attack;

(c) whether the Sri Lankan Navy attacked a mechanised boat and the persons on board were thrown into the sea; and

(d) why Indian coastal guards were not able to protect Indian fishing boats from the attack by Srilankan Navy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) There is no news item regarding any attack on Indian Fishermen by Srilankan Navy in the Tamil Daily Dinamani, dated 2nd February, 1992.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Breach of Code of Conduct by An Indian Ambassador

2678. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact than an Acting Indian Ambassador to U.S.A. attended a Republican fund raising dinner on behalf of Bush-Quale'92 campaign in Fort Lauderdale, Florida hosted by an N.R.I. Cardiologist;

(b) if so, whether the envoy's action

was within the ambit of the foreign policy envisaged by Government;

(c) if not, whether an enquiry has been made into it; and

(d) if so, whether any action has been taken by Government against the erring envoy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) to (c) as per Government's policy, Indian envoys are empowered to exercise their descretion in matters relating to their attendance at various events in the countries of accreditation. Important NRIs in the USA organise public and private functions which are attended by our envoys to maintain close contacts with the members of the Indo-American community. It is in this context that our Charge d' Affairs in the USA attended a private dinner hosted by a prominent NRI. This dinner was also a fund raiser for the Republican candidates. In the US system such events are an accepted norms and our envoys attend such functions not to promote fund-raising buty to maintain contacts with prominent NRIs and American personalities.

(d) Does not arise.

Agreement Between India and Venezuela

2679. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agreement between India and Venezuela for cooperation in science and technology; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding on Science & Technology Cooperation with Venezuela was signed in Caracas on 3rd April, 1987. The MDU provides for bilateral cooperation in S & T through exchange of scientific and technical information, experts and other scientific personnel. It also provides for training of S & T personnel in different fields, grant of research fallowships and execution of joint projects agreed upon by both the Governments.

पासपोर्ट पुस्तिकाओं का आयात

2680. **श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल:** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रधान मंत्री का ध्यान 12 अप्रैल, 1992 के "जनसत्ता" समाचारपत्र के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर "विदेश सचिव के मनमाने फैसलों से रघुनंदन लाल भाटिया सांसत में" शीर्षक से छपे समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पासपोर्ट पुस्तिकाओं के आयात का प्रस्ताव कब और किन परिस्थितियों में पेश किया गया था;

(ग) क्या पासपोर्ट पुस्तिकाओं के आयात के लिए विश्वव्यापी निविदा आमंत्रित किये गये थे, यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं, और इस संबंध में नियम क्या हैं;

(घ) क्या इस प्रस्ताव को पेश करते समय सरकार ने इस तथ्य पर विचार किया था कि इस प्रकार के आयात से पासपोर्ट संबंधी सुरक्षा-पहलू पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा; और

(ङ) वर्ष 1990, और 1991 और जनवरी, 1992 से सितम्बर, 1992 तक पासपोर्ट कार्यालयों द्वारा अलग-अलग प्राप्त किये गए आवेदनों की संख्या कितनी है, और कितने पासपोर्ट जारी किये गये तथा उक्त अवधि के दौरान इंडिया सिक्योरिटी प्रेस द्वारा सप्लाई की गई पासपोर्ट पुस्तिकाओं की वर्ष-वार संख्या कितनी है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुआर्डो फेलेरियो) : (क) से (ङ) सरकार ने 12 अक्तूबर, 1992 के जनसत्ता में इस शीर्षक से छपी खबर देखी है।

पासपोर्ट के लिए लम्बित आवेदनों को निपटाने की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए जुलाई-सितम्बर 1992 में पासपोर्ट पुस्तिकाओं के आयात की बात सोची गई थी क्योंकि उस समय पर्याप्त संख्या में ये पुस्तिकाएं अन्यथा तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं थीं। लेकिन अन्ततः यह फैसला किया गया था कि हम अपनी जरूरत को नासिक स्थित भारत सुरक्षा प्रेस के माध्यम से ही पूरा करेंगे और उसने अपनी उत्पादन क्षमता बढ़ा दी।